



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
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Indiana@Work enrolls three Northeastern Indiana companies adding 40 new jobs; training workers

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan awarded a total of \$21,578 in Indiana@Work funding to three Northeastern Indiana advanced manufacturing companies.

Administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the grants will assist Allen County's **Valbruna Slater Stainless**, Steuben County's **EaglePicher Automotive** and Huntington County's **Lime City Manufacturing Co. Inc.** in assessing the skills of up to 355 people and profiling eight different jobs categories.

"As these businesses prepare for future growth, they know having a well-skilled and highly-trained workforce is a must," Kernan said. "I am encouraged to see more companies in Northeastern Indiana join the Indiana@Work program and are actively working to add qualified workers and upgrade the skill levels of their existing employees."

EaglePicher Automotive's Hamilton plant will assess the skills of up to 130 new employees and profile four positions with its \$9,808 in Indiana@Work funding. The four jobs to be profiled include machine operator, line coordinator, quality technician and maintenance. EaglePicher Automotive is an operating unit of EaglePicher Inc. Its Hillsdale and Wolverine Divisions are worldwide suppliers of torsional and linear vibration dampers, micro-bypass filters, steering knuckles, pump components and rubber-coated metallic and paper gasketing for automotive original equipment and aftermarket applications. EaglePicher Automotive operates 17 facilities, including the Hamilton plant that employs 177 people.

"As we look to the future, the job profiles and skills assessments will allow us to develop and implement innovative training opportunities for our employees," said Jamie Waligora, EaglePicher's human resource manager. "Not only will this help increase our productivity, but it will also expand the knowledge and expertise of our employees."

Lime City Manufacturing Co. Inc. will utilize \$7,540 from Indiana@Work to assess the skills of 25 job applicants as it seeks to fill five new positions. The company also will profile its press operator, set-up technician, set-up operator, and tool and die maker positions. Located in Huntington, Lime City Manufacturing employs 33 people who produce terminals, brackets, shall drawn components, automotive chassis, interior support brackets, mold inserts, small laminations and assemblies.

"The tools offered through Indiana@Work will help us to find the most qualified people to fill any job openings, which is critical for our rapidly growing small business," said Jan Boggs, Lime City Manufacturing's vice-president. "More importantly, we are able to address any future training needs by being better able to target existing skill gaps."

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After recently acquiring Slater Steel Inc.'s Fort Wayne production facility, **Valbruna Slater Stainless Inc.** (VSSI) resumed its sales and production operations on July 12. With \$4,320 from Indiana@Work the company will assess the skills of up to 200 people within the next 18 months as it adds 35 workers to its current staff of 45 people. The Allen County plant will not melt steel but will operate the rolling mill and related equipment. Valbruna Slater Stainless is a subsidiary of Valbruna Group, an Italian-based company that operates mainly in the stainless steel industry.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 21,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 400 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys® skills assessments, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job, is the centerpiece of Indiana@Work. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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